

## THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

Christians, now delivered over to the mandarins' sweet revenge. The French Annamite concession, in an otherwise benevolent treaty, was the promise to conform her foreign policy to French guidance.

The decade, 1874-1884, was to reveal the impracticability of this policy. To the Emperor Tu-Duc, it conclusively proved that France's credulity would permit him to get rid of her by a policy of vexations followed by the renewal of his vassal relationship with China. The French, on their side, found the treatment to which their consuls in the treaty ports were subjected impossible, and their position altogether too precarious. To the other Europeans in Annam, they were responsible for maintaining order, yet they could not do so without Annamite

co-operation. Annam further violated the treaty by persecuting native Christians, and by maintaining tariff barriers along the Red River, when finally Hue forbade the exportation of rice from the treaty ports, spelled ruin for the local European merchants. These numerous objections elicited protests on all sides, which determined the French to take a stronger course of action.

When a French engineer, in 1882, was captured by bandits in Upper Annam, in spite of the French and Annamite passports he carried, attention became focussed on the troubled condition of that region, and the Court of Hue had long encouraged these bandits as a counterpoise to the French, even at the risk of their gaining control of the whole country from Laos to the Chinese frontier. These bandits were the remnants of the Taiping rebellion, who were overrunning the country even at the time of Garnier's explorations. Tu-Duc had called upon the Cantonese viceroy to stop them by sending some

regular troops,  
 t they only added to the general confusion by  
 joining the rebels  
 3e they had got into Tonkin. Eventually two mutually  
 antagonistic  
 ads were formed—the Black and Yellow Flags, whose  
 names were  
 en from the colour of their standards.  
 Fhe Gulf of Tonkin had long been famous as a pirate  
 stronghold,  
 tp® plying between India and China could be neatly  
 waylaid there,  
 i even easier loot was furnished by the many  
 wrecks which took  
 ce in those treacherous waters. The natives there  
 were terrorized  
 9 submission by the pirates' brutal treatment of any  
 who resisted  
 ffi, and this fear made them refuse to give evidence  
 against their  
 mentors. The Chinese in the country protected the  
 pirates, since  
 y supplied them with cheap contraband goods. By the  
 1860\*8, this  
 sac-warn gulf had become the centre of a flourishing  
 trade in women  
 I children, destined for sale in Chinese ports. The  
 best Fraich